

THE LEADING EDGE
Leaders Worth Following
May 2005

Earl Creps' Monthly Leadership Newsletter
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<http://www.agts.edu/dmin/index.html>

Leading Edge blog edition
<http://www.xanga.com/LeadingEdge>

Encounter Journal
<http://www.encounterjournal.com/current.html>

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***New!* Military Chaplaincy Track**

By special arrangement with the Army and Navy, AGTS is now offering a Military Chaplaincy Track that will take advantage of the extensive training offered by the military to provide a more efficient and economical way to complete the D.Min. Contact the D.Min. Team for details (lodea@agts.edu).

Front-Edge Seminars @ General Council

AGTS is hosting three seminars in Denver on the Mon. & Tues. (Aug. 1 & 2) prior to General Council. Topics include:

- *Women's Talk Show*—with Dr. Linda Mintle
- *Cross-Cultural Communication*—with missiologists Drs. Judith and Sherwood Lingenfelter
- *Models of Multi-Site Ministry*—with Larry Osborn, Pastor of North Coast Church

Each of the seminars may be taken for 2 or 3 graduate credits, and are eligible for FasTrak. For more information and online registration, check out the seminars at:

https://www.agts.edu/conferences/2005general_council/index.html

FasTrak: From MA to D.Min. Eligibility in Half the Time!

Thinking about a D.Min. but not sure how to get there? Our new pre-doctoral program can take a qualified MA holder in full-time ministry to academic eligibility for the D.Min. (M.Div. Equivalency) in half the time using a specially designed course format available in many locations around the country. Check it out on the web at: <http://www.agts.edu/fastrak/index.html> Contact the D. Min. Team for more information (lodea@agts.edu).

New D.Min. Cohort Begins June 20-24, 2005 @ AGTS

- Leadership focus
- Pentecostal perspective
- In-service convenience

- Cohort experience
- Customizable program
- Contact: lodea@aGts.edu

Impact Player: Barnabas Mtokambali (Cohort 7)

In a recent email, 2004 D.Min. graduate Barnabas Mtokambali reported that, "soon after I finished my D.Min. from AGTS I was elected the Assistant General Superintendent of the Assemblies of God church here in Tanzania. I was also asked to help teach as visiting prof. of Dodoma Bible college here in Tanzania and East Africa School of Theology in Nairobi, Kenya...I still serve as senior Pastor of TAG Bethel Revival Temple here in Morgoro Tanzania. The church is growing so fast as I apply all the principles...derived from my D.Min. project. We have a total of 1051 members now."

Internet Resources : LeaderLinks

<http://www.leaderlinks.com>

A pretty fair online resource center featuring articles by people like Bob Buford and John Maxwell, reviews of leadership books, and an email newsletter. The best feature here is the large archive of articles by well-known authors. Lots of handy, bulleted-list ideas that can provide the raw material for "rip and read" training.

Statistics: Sexually Transmitted Diseases

- 134,000 new cases of syphilis are occurring each year, the highest infection rate in 40 years; 1.3 million new gonorrhea cases occur annually.
- 24 million new cases of human papilloma virus (HPV) occur annually, including a high percentage among teens.
- 63% of all sexually transmitted disease (STD) cases occur among people less than 25 years of age.
- AIDS is the leading killer of Americans between the ages of 25 and 44.
- Condoms provide virtually no protection against an STD called the human papilloma virus (HPV). HPV is the most common medical problem seen by gynecologists and causes almost all cervical cancer in the U.S.

<http://www.leaderu.com/everystudent/sex/misc/stats.html>

Read This Book: *Why Decisions Fail*

Paul C. Nutt bases this book on a study of 400 decisions over the last 20 years by top managers that resulted in failed outcomes (e.g., Firestone's tire recall, the Waco siege, EuroDisney, etc.). He finds that many of these failures are traceable to a "quick fix" that became a substitute for long-term creative thinking. Nutt identifies common failure pathways and how to avoid them.

http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/1576751503/qid=1115821609/sr=2-1/ref=pd_bbs_b_2_1/103-1620781-9555033

Quotable: Feelings and Change

"Behavior change happens mostly by speaking to people's feelings...This is true even in organizations that are very focused on analysis and quantitative measurement, even among people who think of themselves as smart in an MBA sense. In highly successful change efforts, people find ways to help others see the problems or solutions in ways that influence emotions, not just thought."

--John Kotter

LeaderLife: How Does Transformation Happen?

Every year our Team has a chance to evaluate the D.Min. program by holding a group exit interview with our graduates. This debrief session is facilitated by a third party to give our grads the chance to share their feelings about the program anonymously.

This year's debrief was dominated by one word: *transformation*. The graduates reported that the D.Min. experience had changed their lives and ministries in significant ways. After five years of holding these debriefs, I've reached some conclusions about how our program (and perhaps any ministry) changes people.

1. *New Information*: a certain amount of change can be engendered by telling me things I didn't know before. Learning that many failed decisions in the corporate world stem from "quick fix" solutions might make me more patient in problem solving.

2. *Changed Perspective*: I begin to lead differently whenever my point of view changes on the information I already possess. Discovering that my leadership problems are not accidental, but fall into common patterns can begin a season of repentance.

3. *Self-Discovery*: finding out what's really going on inside me is critical to personal transformation. I must deal with who I really am, not who I think I am, or who I pretend to be. Sometimes this means giving my traits a name, like "narcissistic leader."

4. *Accountability*: knowing that someone is going to ask me the tough questions in a confidential environment has a remarkably sobering effect. Long-term survival requires an accountability partner or group.

5. *Relationship*: being in a close-knit group like a D.Min. cohort has a way of opening me up to the influence of others who can speak into my life and help to bring leadership issues into focus.

6. *Pressure*: D.Min. participants undertake their studies while facing the rigors of full-time ministry. A course on conflict resolution, for example, has my full attention Monday through Friday if I'm heading off on the weekend to settle a church split.

7. *Perseverance*: transformation is a work of grace over time punctuated by outpourings of God's power. The journey is not linear, is seldom orderly, and even includes seasons of real discouragement. Refusing to quit is half the battle.

With all of this being said, I still am not sure that I fully understand how the D.Min. experience leads to personal transformation. A spiritual synergy is at work here that is larger than the sum of these parts. In a sense, then, any ministry simply creates the arena in which the Holy Spirit has a greater opportunity to change hearts. We may not know all the answers on *why* it works, but we certainly know *that* it works.

Be a leader worth following,

Earl

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D.Min. program mission: transforming leaders to transform their organizations

D.Min. program vision: leaders worth following

D.Min. program values:

- **the extra mile**—others before ourselves
- **the personal touch**—everyone counts
- **the cutting edge**—we get there first
- **the real deal**—authenticity in everything
- **the better way**—listen to improve
- **the positive word**—choose to encourage
- **the unique person**—enjoy diversity
- **the X factor**—synergy through trust and truth

D.Min. Team:

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Leading Edge Blog Edition:

<http://www.xanga.com/LeadingEdge>

Leading Edge Archive:

Past issues are archived at: http://agts.edu/dmin/leading_edge/index.html

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